

No 100 Dec 4th 1826 J. G. # 11

246 Race St

An

Inaugural Dissertation

on Papered March 17th 1827
W. & H.

Mania a Potu

by

Roger Davis

of

Pennsylvania

The dissertation is on the whole creditable to its author, but
he has very improperly confounded Latin & English in his
expressions. I strike the name of Hoffman with a pencil
in the title, as being a bad mistake.

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The rules of that University require
that every candidate for the degree
of Doctor of Divinity should write
a paper on some critical subject for
submission to his examination. This was
after the following subject was chosen
as a topic.

Disease were in general fatal
in consequence of their nature all over
the world. The one cause considered as
causing the result of indisposition,
a kind of exhausted mind, left
inert, and glimmering prospects
remain too often the result of their
course. But all the other effects were
to follow in consequence of the foregoing
and are so closely connected as not to
be able to give any separate account
of them as topics.

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The rules of this University requiring that every Candidate for the degree of Doctor of Medicine, should write an essay on some medical subject preparatory to his examination, I beg leave to offer the following dissertation on Mania a Potu.

Disease seems inseparable from the existence of man under all circumstances. The one under consideration is however the result of indiscretion. Individuals of cultivated minds, lofty sentiments, and glittering prospects, become too often the victims of intemperance. Of all the ills which commonly follow in ^{the} train of this detestable vice, none are so alarming, nor so well calculated to enlist our sympathies as that of Mania a Potu.

The mind of the human being
is not a blank slate for the reception
of ideas. It is a complex of
ideas, feelings, and impressions
which are constantly being
renewed and modified. The
mind is not a passive receiver
of information, but an active
organ which interprets and
organizes the material which
it receives. The mind is
not a single entity, but a
complex of many different
faculties and powers. The
mind is not a static thing,
but a dynamic one which
is constantly changing and
growing. The mind is not
a thing in itself, but a
process which is going on
within us. The mind is not
a separate entity, but a
function of the body. The
mind is not a thing which
can be touched or seen, but
a thing which can be known
by its effects. The mind is
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independently of the body,
but a thing which exists
because of the body. The
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Symptoms

This affection of the mind is connected with the fever, consequent to the abuse of ardent liquors. It most frequently occurs in habitual drunkards, especially, if they suddenly cease from drinking, immediately after frequent fits of intoxication.

Disposition The first feelings of indisposition are lassitude, a singular alteration of countenance, eyes red and rolling with a wild glare in different directions, pulse full, strong, and easily compressible, loathing of food violent head ach, skin hot, tongue parched, with no very distinct manifestation of fever. Early in the case there is considerable gastric distress, with constipation and sometimes violent vomiting, so that no

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food or drink will remain on the stom-
ach. These symptoms are also accom-
panied at times with great thirst.
As the case advances there is an
increase of nervous tremours, and loss
of muscular power, insomuch as scarce-
ly to admit of motion. But occasion-
ally ~~great~~ paroxysms of violence occur,
and in these fits of madness, they
require several men to hold them.
These symptoms do not last long, before
they are succeeded by extreme debility,
which often terminates in convulsions.

The mind which from the first was
disturbed, becomes now exceedingly
deranged, and their imagination calls
forth the hideous phantasms, to har-
-ass and perplex them. Very often they
are timid, and suspicious; being aroused

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by every footsteps, thinking it some one in pursuit of them, to injure or murder them, and under the influence of such feelings, either hide themselves under the bed, in a corner, or attempt to escape the danger which threatens them by leaping out of the window.

They declare that vermin are crawling over their bed or about their cloaths: or that bright or dark spots are floating in the atmosphere.

Sometimes they fancy that they hear remarkable sounds in the room or at a distance: at other times they imagine that the house is falling upon them, and attempt to support what they consider the falling or tottering walls: and in other examples, alternately listen and speak, as if they were

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a picture of the life of a woman
from her youth to her old age
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conversing with some one that was present. They are often intent upon calculations, the extent of buildings counting or picking up money, settling accounts, or some such imaginary employment. In short they are either earnestly engaged with business immediately before them, or their attention is wholly engrossed by conspiracies, suspicions, or the like: The countenance varying according to the nature of the predominant impression. If patients be abruptly contradicted they are mostly very pertinacious in their opinions and easily excited into passion: but if they be soothingly dealt with, they will now and then answer certain questions mildly, and even distinctly: nevertheless if many interrogations be put to them

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in succession, they grow confused and relapse into their former incoherence. Sometimes they mistake the names of things or the pronunciation of words; and although they generally recognise most of their acquaintances, they load some of them with abuse on trivial pretexts, and request the friendly interference of others.

Most of the symptoms above enumerated continue from four to ten days, but cases less active may be considerably more protracted.

When convalescence is not restored within the first month there will be a risk of long continued if not permanent loss of the mental faculties.

Prognosis. Great irritation: indications of coma or convulsions: constant watching.

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rapid and thready pulse; frequent vomiting; contracted pupils are among the most unfavourable signs.

Dissection
On dissection of those who died of Mania a potu, the stomach is found highly inflamed, and the liver variously affected, either with tubercles, abscesses, congestion or acute inflammation. The brain is always more or less affected in this disease. Upon examination, it has been found either in a state of congestion, inflammation, or inundated with effusions of serum. In rare instances extravasations of blood have been found in the ventricles. In such cases water has not infrequently been found in the cavity of the pleura, as well as, in the pericardium.

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Treatment

Different opinions have been entertained respecting the cure of Mania a Potu. Some following the deceptive indications of the pulse, deplete to a considerable extent: while others, follow a plan of treatment directly the reverse; and pursue the most cordial and stimulating plan of treatment. The latter is the true practice.

The first step to be taken is to tranquilize the stomach. For this purpose the following mixture answers very well. Carbonate of potash ℥j. gum arabic ℥j. Laudanum gtt + + x. oil of mint gtt +. water ℥v. The dose is a table spoonfull every half hour until the stomach becomes calmed. Doctor mitchel in his lectures stated

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that he has found, 'Elix. Diac. m. of
the Bicarbonate of potash dissolved
in a pint of Mineral water, to be
one of the ^{best} prescriptions for irritable
stomachs. Laudanum and hot toddy
may also be used; and afterwards
administer opium very freely.

But this plan of treatment refers
more particularly to cases occurring
in habitual drunkards. The patient
should be confined to a dark
room, and freed from all noises.

To revive gastric sensibility emet-
ics are often of service; but they
must be given in large doses and
frequently repeated. From one to
two grains of tartar emetic in as
many spoons-ful of water and
repeated until it operates, answers

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very well: or perhaps what will be more efficacious is one grain of tartar emetic, with twenty grains of Ipecacuanha, given every half hour until it operates. after the sensibility of the stomach is somewhat awakened, we recur again to the use of opium and brandy to induce sleep, which is the great object in the treatment of Mania a Potu.

If the pulse be very full, with a great determination to the brain, moderate bleeding with the application of cups and blisters to the head, may become necessary.

But the disease, if in the advanced stage, or if depletion has been carried too far, assumes a typhoid character, with dry incrustated tongue.

very little is to be said with
the exception of the pain of
the head being of the same
kind, even when the pain
is relieved after the removal of
the cause, a similar condition
is known again to the old system
which is more or less, which is the
first effect in the treatment of
this disease.
If the patient is very fat, with a
great disposition to the disease, and
the disease with the application
of the hand to the back, may
become necessary.
But the disease of the stomach
may be of different kinds, and
the disease may be a different
kind, with the same symptoms.

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hot skin, suffused countenance, wild eye, contracted pupil, nervous tremors, subultus tendinum and loo delirium.

The practice in this stage of the disease should consist of opium and camphor, also carbonate of ammonia.

It may be given in doses of five grains every hour. or it may be given in a mixture called the Volatile Julap. It is made as follows, Carbonate of ammonia ℥ij. Gum arabic, ℥j saccharum album ℥j. water ℥iv. oil of cinnamon qttv. dose a table spoonful. This should be aided by wine whey, which is made as follows: Lactis vaccinae op. vini albi ℥i vel ℥ij. Boil the milk and then add the wine. It must be given as the case requires.

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The tincture of lupulin may also be used. It is prepared by digesting $\frac{1}{2}$ ij of the lupulin in \mathcal{O} j of alcohol, of which the dose is from $\frac{1}{2}$ i to $\frac{1}{2}$ ij, and repeated as the case may require. In addition to these may be mentioned strong brandy toddy. The abstraction of blood in this stage of the disease, would only increase the venous congestion, by further diminishing the force of the heart, and arteries

Diet

This as well as the medicines should be cordial and stimulating. Jellies with wine or brandy or spices, rich soups, or oysters and the plentiful use of cayenne pepper. During the convalescence, the same

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system of treatment should be pursued, though perhaps not to the same extent. Malt liquor will be found an exceedingly useful article of drink.

During the cure of Mania a potu, if the stimulating plan of treatment be not pursued, irritability of the stomach, morbid vigilance, and nervous tremors often occur.

When these symptoms supervene, we must again recur to the carbonate of ammonia, Hoffman's anodyne liquor, watery solution of assafetida and garlic. The two latter articles are particularly grateful to drunkards. A very common attendant of Mania a potu, is morbid vigilance, and is most effectually removed removed

system of treatment should be
pursued through which and to
the same extent that it will
be necessary to make use of
of blood.

During the time of Maria's life,
if the attending plan of treatment
be not pursued, probability of the
disease, under present, and the
same cannot often occur.

When these symptoms appear, we
must again recur to the treatment
of chronic, suppurative disease of
the prostate, and of the bladder.
The two latter articles
are particularly proper to be treated
by very common attention of Maria
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} Vol. 1 Mania & Insipientia 1822.
 } William Miller Jr

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